IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7.　(currently amended)An operating/managing method in an operating/managing system of <u>a plurality of</u> storage apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

causing a storage apparatus to be specified, said storage apparatus being in use at present;

causing a property to be specified, said storage apparatus being requested to exhibit said property;

causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected from among candidates of storage apparatuses indicated from said operating/managing system;

requesting said selected storage apparatus to create a volume; and

instructing said selected storage apparatus to start duplication of data.

8.　(currently amended)The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, ~~subsequently~~ subsequent to said step of causing ~~said~~ a particular storage apparatus to be selected, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

indicating a fee needed for ~~said~~ duplication of said data.

9. (currently amended)The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, ~~subsequently~~ subsequent to said step of requesting said <u>selected storage apparatus</u>~~creation of said volume~~, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

charging a fee to a storage apparatus operating system that owns said selected storage apparatus.

10. (new) The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

holding property information that is a property of each of said storage apparatuses connected to said computer in said operating/managing system;

retrieving storage apparatuses in accordance with said specified property based on said property information; and

indicating said candidates of storage apparatuses as a result of the retrieving.